

CLEAN VERSION OF PENDING CLAIMS

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1. (Amended) A keyboard comprising:
 - a housing having substantially a form factor of a standard personal computer keyboard;
 - a plurality of keys disposed within the housing;
 - a communications link disposed within the housing, wherein the communications link is capable of communicating with a computer; and,
 - a connector operatively coupled to the communications link, said connector disposed within the housing and receptive to a corresponding connector of a device such that the device communicates with the computer over the communications link when the connectors are coupled.
 2. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the housing has a plurality of surfaces defining a cradle cavity into which the connector is disposed, the cradle cavity shaped so that the device fits into the cavity such that at least one surface of the device is exposed.
 3. The keyboard of claim 2, wherein the cradle cavity is shaped so that the device fits into the cavity such that at least a front surface of the device is exposed.
 4. The keyboard of claim 2, wherein the cradle cavity is shaped so that the device fits into the cavity such that at least a top surface of the device is exposed.
 5. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the housing has an end surface into which the connector is disposed, the connector of the device coupling the connector of the housing such that at least one of a top surface and a bottom surface of the device is flush with a corresponding surface of the housing.
 6. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the communications link comprises at least a cable.
 7. The keyboard of claim 6, wherein the cable is a Universal Serial Bus (USB)-compatible cable.
 8. The keyboard of claim 6, wherein the communications link also comprises at least a radio frequency (RF) transceiver.
 9. The keyboard of claim 1, further comprising a recharger operatively coupled to the connector of the keyboard to recharge a battery of the device when the connectors are coupled.
 10. The keyboard of claim 1, further comprising a power source disposed within the housing.
 11. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the device is a personal digital assistant (PDA) device operable in a docking mode when the connectors are coupled and operable in a stand-alone mode

when the connectors are uncoupled.

13. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the device communicates with the computer in a docking mode when the connectors are coupled and in a stand-alone mode via a wireless transceiver of the device communicating with a corresponding wireless transceiver of the computer.

14. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the device is a touch screen device having at least one changeable virtual key.

15. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the device includes a power source.

16. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the device is selected from the group of devices comprising a remote control for a television, a digital video disc (DVD) player, a compact disc (CD) player, and a telephone handset.

17. (Amended) A keyboard comprising:
a housing having substantially a form factor of a standard personal computer keyboard;
a plurality of keys disposed within the housing;
a communications link disposed within the housing to communicatively couple the keyboard to the computer; and,
a communications link disposed within the housing, wherein the communications link is capable of communicating with a computer; and,
a connector disposed within the housing and receptive to a corresponding connector of a personal digital assistant (PDA) device such that the PDA device communicates with the computer over the communications link when the connectors are coupled.

18. The keyboard of claim 17, wherein the housing has a plurality of surfaces defining a cradle cavity into which the connector is disposed, the cradle cavity shaped so that the PDA device fits into the cavity such that at least one surface of the device is exposed.

20. (Amended) A keyboard comprising:
a housing having substantially a form factor of a standard personal computer keyboard;
a plurality of keys disposed within the housing;
a communications link disposed within the housing, wherein the communications link is capable of communicating with a computer; and,
a connector disposed within the housing and receptive to a corresponding connector of a device having a touch screen such that the device communicates with the computer over the communications link when the connectors are coupled.

21. The keyboard of claim 20, wherein the housing has an end surface into which the connector is disposed, the connector of the device coupling the connector of the housing such that at least one of a top surface and a bottom surface of the device is flush with a corresponding surface of the housing.